



7 September 1960

✓ *care*  
Mr. Paul Mooton  
THE TIMES-PICAYUNE  
1015 National Press Building  
Washington 4, D. C.

Dear Paul,

Allen Dulles asked me to thank you for the editorial,  
"Code and Mystery," from a recent issue of the TIMES-PICAYUNE.

It was very thoughtful of you, as always, to send this  
clipping to us.

Best regards to you and to your good editor, George  
Healy.

Sincerely yours,

**SIGNED**

Stanley J. Grogan  
Assistant to the Director

ODCI/HS/SJGrogan/nhh

✓ cc: DCI w/basic

ER

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE W)

*Memo from*

**PAUL WOOTON**

1015 National Press Building

Col. Hogan

1015

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# The Times

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## Code and Mystery

Two questions remain unanswered in connection with the supposed defection to the iron curtain of two National Security Agency experts, Bernon F. Mitchell and William N. Martin;

—Why did they defect?—if they did.

—Did they carry highly valuable cryptographic (code) information with them to Russia?

Rep. John W. McCormack says he has learned that they took information more valuable than the NSA has admitted, and wants the Walter union American activities committee to investigate. Nobody, so far as we have seen, has advanced any reason why the comparatively young mathematicians should want to hike off to Russia. They have been traced to Mexico and then Cuba where the tracks apparently were lost.

Work of the "defectors" has not been precisely described. The NSA seems to be super-secret all around. But it does work on intelligence communications, intercepts radio signals, etc. What information was available to Mitchell and Martin is not indicated, and obviously there is a dispute about how valuable it would be to Russia and how dangerous or inconvenient to the US.

Knowing and "breaking" codes had enormous advantages during World War II as both the US and Japan can testify. We imagine NSA is taking no chances. But it would be interesting to know from Rep. Walters committee, if it finds out, how much comfort the "defectors" have given the Kremlin and why they put us to such seri-